



The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352
E-mail: info@usmayors.org URL: usmayors.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Contact: Elena Temple
202-309-4906/etemple@usmayors.org
Carlos Vogel
202-257-9797/cvogel@usmayors.org
Lina Garcia
202-341-6113/lgarcia@usmayors.org

THE NATION'S MAYORS TO FOCUS ON ARTS & TOURISM IN AMERICA: NATIONAL ACTION FORUM IN PALM BEACH, FL

Washington, D.C. – In the midst of the national financial crisis, U.S. Conference of Mayors President Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, along with West Palm Beach Mayor Lois Frankel and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran will hold a Mayors' Forum on Arts & Tourism and the impact that each sector has on the U.S. economy. Mayors are also available to respond to the proposed Wall Street bailout.

The Arts/Tourism forum, to be held at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, FL on October 3rd, will be the fifth and last in a series of mayoral forums in key cities around the country intended to challenge the next Presidential Administration to invest in America's cities and metropolitan areas -- the economic engines of the nation accounting for 86 percent of the Gross Domestic Product and where over 85% of people in the country live.

The nation's arts and tourism activities are an important component of our national economy. America's nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year. And the travel and tourism's contribution to the national economy is \$740 billion in direct expenditures. In addition to their economic output, mayors will also discuss federal arts funding; a cabinet-level position on culture and tourism; travel visa waivers; reforming and modernizing the Transportation Security Administration (TSA); and the airline industry crisis.

Recommendations from the mayors' forum will be presented to the next President of the United States during the critical first 100 days of the new administration toward the creation of a metro/national/urban agenda.

Mayor Diaz believes that Washington no longer invests in its cities and its people. He has said, "Washington has lost its values – lost its principles – lost its sense of purpose – engaging in endless debate and partisan bickering while people in this country continue to suffer. ... Plain and simple, Washington has abandoned us."

WHO: Miami, FL Mayor Manny Diaz, USCM President
Seattle, WA Mayor Greg Nickels, USCM Vice President
Honolulu, HI Mayor Mufi Hanneman, USCM Committee on Arts, Parks, Sports & Tourism Chair
West Palm Beach, FL Mayor Lois Frankel
+ Several Mayors from Key U.S. Cities
- and -
Robert Lynch, President and CEO, Americans for the Arts
Sharon Pinkerton, Air Transport Association (Invited)
Jonathan Tisch, President and CEO, Loews Hotels, Chairman, Travel Business Roundtable
Jane Garvey, Former Federal Aviation Administration Administrator (Invited)

WHAT: Arts & Tourism Forum: PRESS CONFERENCE AT 11:30am

WHEN: Friday, October 3, 2008

WHERE: The Breakers Hotel – Gulf Stream Rooms 1&2
One South County Road
Palm Beach, FL 33480 ~ 561-655-6611

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